Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2002 TO APRIL 12, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Rigs Drilling	March			The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta declined by 14.2% in March, reflecting the seasonal downturn in activity. Although the number of rigs drilling was down from last year's level, it remains well above the 10-year average.
	307	-14.2%	-23.5%	
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	February			New house prices in Canada were up 0.7% in February, with the largest year over year increase posted by Ottawa-Gatineau (5.8%). Calgary and Edmonton showed month over month increases of 0.5% and 1.5% respectively. On an annual basis, new house prices are up 3.2% for Canada, while Calgary and Edmonton are up 4.0% and 4.8%.
Canada	108.3	0.7%	3.2%	
Edmonton	117.9	1.5%	4.8%	
Calgary	139.0	0.5%	4.0%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	February			The value of building permits in Canada decreased 4.2% in February, but are up 7.7% on an annual basis. The value of non-residential permits fell by 10.8%, while residential permits decreased by 0.2%. Alberta's monthly 5.7% decrease in building permits reflects a 20.0% decrease in the non-residential sector, which was slightly offset by an increase of 1.6% in the residential sector. Alberta's building permits are up 30.3% from February 2001.
Alberta	537.9	-5.7%	30.3%	
Canada	3,676.5	-4.2%	7.7%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	March			Urban housing starts rose in March by 12.3% to 179,800 units, while total housing starts in Canada increased by 10.9% to 199,800 units. The largest percentage decreases in housing starts were in Saskatchewan (-38.1%) and Newfoundland (-28.6%), while New Brunswick (118.8%) posted the largest percentage increase. Alberta's housing starts increased 40.1% in March to 39,500, and were up 90.8% from March 2001.
Alberta	39,500	40.1%	90.8%	
Canada	179,800	12.3%	32.2%	